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JOINT INSPECTION UNIT

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Peter MADDENS (Belgium)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 22 September 1995, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fiftieth session the item entitled "Joint Inspection Unit", and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 32nd, 36th, 37th and 64th meetings, on 28 November, 4 and 6 December 1995 and 31 May 1996. Comments and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/50/SR.32, 36, 37 and 64).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Annual reports of the Joint Inspection Unit for the periods 1 July 1993 to 30 June 1994 and 1 July 1994 to 30 June 1995; 1/

(b) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the work programme of the Joint Inspection Unit for 1995, 1996 and beyond (A/50/140 and Add.1);

(c) Reports of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit (A/49/632 and A/50/784);

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 34 (A/49/34); and ibid., Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 34 (A/50/34).

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(d) Reports of the Joint Inspection Unit:

(i) Management of buildings in the United Nations system (A/49/560) and comments of the Secretary-General thereon (A/50/753);

(ii) United Nations system common premises and services in the field (A/49/629);

(iii) National execution of projects (A/50/113) and comments of the Administrative Committee on Coordination thereon (A/50/113/Add.1);

(iv) United Nations system support for science and technology in Africa (A/50/125) and comments of the Administrative Committee on Coordination thereon (A/50/125/Add.1);

(v) Accountability, management improvement and oversight in the United Nations system (parts I and II) (A/50/503 and Add.1);

(vi) Management in the United Nations: work in progress (A/50/507);

(vii) The advancement of women through and in the programmes of the United Nations system: What happens after the Fourth World Conference on Women? (A/50/509);

(viii) Sharing responsibilities in peace-keeping: the United Nations and regional organizations (A/50/571);

(ix) Investigation of the relationship between humanitarian assistance and peace-keeping operations (A/50/572);

(x) Military component of United Nations peace-keeping operations (A/50/576);

(xi) A review of telecommunications and related information technologies in the United Nations system (A/50/686);

(xii) The involvement of the United Nations system in providing and coordinating humanitarian assistance (A/50/687);

(xiii) Travel in the United Nations: issues of efficiency and cost savings (A/50/692);

(xiv) United Nations system support for science and technology in Asia and the Pacific (A/50/721);

(xv) Strengthening of the United Nations system capacity for conflict prevention (A/50/853);

(xvi) Evaluation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s: towards a more operational approach (A/50/885) and comments of the Secretary-General and the Administrative Committee on Coordination thereon (A/50/885/Add.1);

(xvii) Relationship agreements between the United Nations and the specialized agencies: review and strengthening of sections pertaining to the common system of salaries, allowances and conditions of service (E/1993/119) and comments of the Administrative Committee on Coordination thereon (E/1993/119/Add.1);

(e) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the comments of the Joint Inspection Unit final reports prepared by the Office of Internal Oversight Services (A/50/459/Add.1);

(f) Letter dated 21 November 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the Secretary-General (A/50/780-S/1995/980);

(g) Letter dated 30 November 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the Secretary-General (A/50/793-S/1995/1000);

(h) Letter dated 5 December 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the Secretary-General (A/50/805-S/1995/1009).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.5/48/L.64

4. At the 64th meeting, on 31 May, the representative of Brazil introduced a draft resolution entitled "Joint Inspection Unit" (A/C.5/50/L.64), submitted by the Chairman of the Committee on the basis of informal consultations.

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/50/L.64 without a vote (see para. 6).

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE

6. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Joint Inspection Unit

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its previous relevant resolutions on the Joint Inspection Unit, in particular resolution 48/221 of 23 December 1993, and on the review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations,

Reaffirming also paragraph 6 of section II of its resolution 48/218 A of 23 December 1993,

Having considered the annual reports of the Joint Inspection Unit for the periods 1 July 1993 to 30 June 1994 2/ and 1 July 1994 to 30 June 1995, 3/ and its related work programmes, 4/ as well as the reports of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of the Unit, 5/

Reaffirming the statute of the Joint Inspection Unit, the only independent system-wide inspection, evaluation and investigation body,

Stressing that the impact of the Joint Inspection Unit on the cost-effectiveness of activities within the United Nations system is a shared responsibility of the Member States, the Unit and the secretariats of the participating organizations,

Noting with concern that some reports of the Joint Inspection Unit have dealt with political matters,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the annual reports of the Joint Inspection Unit on its activities during the periods 1 July 1993 to 30 June 1994 2/ and 1 July 1994 to 30 June 1995, 3/ of its work programmes for 1994, 1995 and 1995-1996 6/ and of the reports of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of the Unit; 5/

2. Endorses the observations and recommendations on the operation of the Joint Inspection Unit contained in the annual report of the Unit for the period from 1 July 1994 to 30 June 1995, subject to the provisions of the present resolution, without prejudice to its consideration of the thematic reports of the Unit;

3. Decides to consider the appropriate periodicity of the Joint Inspection Unit agenda item in the context of the review called for in its decision 47/454 of 23 December 1992;

4. Requests the Secretary-General and invites the executive heads of Joint Inspection Unit participating organizations to take the necessary measures to ensure that the thematic reports of the Unit are listed under the appropriate substantive agenda items of the work programmes of the General Assembly, other pertinent organs and bodies of the United Nations and the appropriate legislative organs of the other participating organizations;

2/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 34 (A/49/34).

3/ Ibid., Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 34 (A/50/34).

4/ See A/49/111 and A/50/140.

5/ A/49/632 and A/50/784.

6/ See A/49/111 and A/50/140 and Add.1.

5. Takes note of the thematic reports of the Joint Inspection Unit submitted to it for action, and decides to continue their consideration, where appropriate, under the relevant agenda items;

6. Requests the Joint Inspection Unit to seek a more reader-friendly and uniform format of reports, taking into account new publishing technologies, that would include sections containing the objectives of the report, an executive summary, the conclusions drawn and, as appropriate, the action required to be taken by the organizations, in order to make reports as concise as possible and to comply with the existing page limit of 32 pages;

7. Also requests the Joint Inspection Unit to report to it at its fifty-first regular session on measures taken aimed at developing the set of internal standards and guidelines for inspection, evaluation and investigation;

8. Invites the legislative organs of other Joint Inspection Unit participating organizations to take concrete action on the recommendations of the Unit;

9. Reminds the Joint Inspection Unit of its functions and powers as set out in chapter III of its statute, in particular article 5, paragraphs 1 to 3 and 5, and article 7, and requests the Unit to prepare its programme of work accordingly, bearing in mind the interests of the participating organizations and the paramount need to ensure efficiency of services and proper use of funds;

10. Invites the Joint Inspection Unit to continue to take full advantage of its system-wide competence in undertaking comparative analysis on trends and problems faced by various organizations and to propose harmonized, practical and concrete solutions;

11. Requests the executive heads of the Joint Inspection Unit participating organizations to comply fully with the statutory reporting procedures for the consideration of the reports of the Unit, and requests the Unit to report to the competent legislative organs on compliance by the secretariats concerned;

12. Requests the Joint Inspection Unit to continue to focus its reports on important priority items, identifying concrete managerial, administrative and programming questions aimed at providing the General Assembly and other legislative organs of participating organizations with practical and action-oriented recommendations on precisely defined issues;

13. Requests the Joint Inspection Unit to issue its reports well in advance of meetings of the legislative organs of the participating organizations so that the reports can be thoroughly and effectively utilized by these legislative organs;

14. Requests the Secretary-General and the other executive heads of participating organizations to assist the Unit fully, with timely provision of all information requested by it;

15. Decides to consider the issue of the mobility of the staff of the Joint Inspection Unit in the context of the review called for in its decision 47/454;

16. Encourages the Joint Inspection Unit to continue to take the necessary steps to achieve a punctual and systematic follow-up of its recommendations as approved by the legislative organs of the participating organizations;

17. Urges Member States to pay special attention to the importance of the selection of qualified inspectors.